

LISITNG OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) A method for reducing power consumption in a satellite downlink transmitter, the method comprising:

defining a frame structure for use on a downlink, and further defining a traffic body and an overhead body in said frame structure;

determining a traffic transmit time, and an overhead transmit time for each frame;

storing synchronization information in said overhead body;

queueing and not immediately transmitting traffic information for transmission on a satellite to produce queued traffic, wherein said queued traffic is immediately transmittable by said satellite;

establishing a latency threshold which determines the maximum time for which any portion of traffic information remains queued on said satellite without transmission;

determining whether said latency threshold has been exceeded; and

continuously transmitting information in a downlink according to the following substeps:

activating a satellite transmitter for said overhead transmit time and

transmitting said overhead body including said synchronization information;

immediately transmitting, if said latency time has been exceeded, said

traffic body for said traffic time; and
deactivating, if said latency time has not been exceeded, said transmitter
for said traffic transmit time.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of storing in
at least one traffic body said queued traffic.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of
sequentially storing in multiple overhead bodies synchronization information and
sequentially storing in multiple associated traffic bodies said queued traffic, and wherein
said transmitting step activates said transmitter to transmit each of said multiple overhead
bodies and each of said multiple associated traffic bodies in which queued information
has been stored before said step of determining whether said latency threshold has been
exceeded.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of establishing a latency
threshold establishes said latency threshold as a multiple of a frame transmit time.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
determining when enough queued information exists to fill said traffic body;
storing said queued information in said traffic body; and

activating said transmitter to transmit said overhead body and said traffic body before said step of determining whether said latency threshold has been exceeded..

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said queueing step queues traffic information in units of 53 byte Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) cells.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of storing null information in any traffic body that is only partially filled with queued traffic information at the time of transmission.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said step of storing null information stores null ATM cells.